

Preservations Partners Task Force
MEETING SUMMARY
9 May 2006
City Hall
Training Center
7:30 PM

1. Call to Order (7:35 PM)
 - **Attending: Ron Anzalone, Peter Behr, Nikki Graves, Lawrence Pence, Ruth Rodgers, Kevin Sarring, Samuel Starr, David Snyder, Catherine Taylor, Ric Terman**
Staff – Elizabeth Friel, Debra Gee, Camille Bowman (VDHR), Michael Leventhal (Arlington Co.)
2. Presentation by and Discussion with **Michael Leventhal**, Historic Preservation Coordinator, Arlington County, VA
 - Michael Leventhal discussed his experiences in the County and in prior positions and answered the following questions:
 - How many historic districts are in Arlington County?
 - **25, used National Register standards to create**
 - How did the County decide where to draw the district boundaries?
 - **Have fairly clear boundaries and a lot of individual property districts**
 - Was consent from a percentage of property owners within the district required? If yes, what percentage?
 - **Not required but 75% is typical.**
 - What problems do the Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board (HALRB) have in enforcing the County's ordinance?
 - **Not a whole lot, 40 cases, 98.7% approval**
 - What problems does the staff have in enforcing the County's ordinance?
 - **-Not too many, have inspections staff and monitor closely.**
 - What works well for staff/HALRB in implementing the ordinance?
 - **Cooperative, pleasant attitudes on the Board and staff very important.**
 - Mike also discussed:
 - The use of Design Guidelines-very important
 - Tracking system “permits Plus” – key for all to see the historic restrictions on staff
 - The staff numbers four, three of whom are architectural historians
 - The constant surveying the County contracts through Traceries, they have surveyed a new area of the County each year for the past nine years.
 - CLG status good source for funding for surveys

- National register nominations, the County does a few each year- good public relations tool, sometimes leads to County districts
- Tax relief – not aware of any local programs
- Critical role of neighborhood associations in Arlington
- Maywood experience in regulating non-contributing houses seems to have not allowed Mc Mansions. (3 months for an OK for a teardown, too long for builders)
- Suggested that state enabling legislation needs to be updated; acknowledged that Arlington’s legislation needs to be updated. Arlington’s preservation ordinance requires HALRB to review only properties designated locally; building permit triggers review
- Suggested that preservation ordinance include archaeology survey, identification, and protection
- Suggested that a regional effort is needed to protect and to maintain the District of Columbia original boundary stones.

3. Committee Reports

- Historic Properties Protection Strategies
- Legislation and Regulation
- Falls Church Historic Properties Inventory
- Advocacy/Outreach

ACTION ITEM: Chair Behr distributed a list of potential recommendations. He requested Task Force members to bring their list of recommendations to the next meeting for consideration.

ACTION ITEM: Staff requested to research tax credits/easements and report to Task Force.

ACTION ITEM: Staff requested to consult with City’s Real Estate Assessor on impact to assessment if property carries an easement prohibiting future subdivision (remains as one lot).

ACTION ITEM: Staff requested to provide University of Mary Washington Internet link for members to review preservation ordinances used by other Virginia jurisdictions that are on file in the University’s library.

4. Discussion/Decision on Whether to Provide Comments on City Center

Ron Anzalone distributed Historical Commission’s comments on City Center, dated March 8, 2002, and indicated that the Commission intended to readdress the issue. Councilmember Snyder urged the Task Force to provide comments as soon as possible. Following discussion, item continued until 23 May.

5. Confirm Agenda/Meeting of 23 May 2006

Meeting date confirmed.

6. Approval of Meeting Summaries of 11 April 2006 and of 25 April 2006

11 April 2006 Summary accepted as presented. 25 April 2006 Summary accepted as amended.

7. Adjourn (9:55 PM).

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